

Screening Opinion Questionnaire for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Noak Bridge Parish Neighbourhood Area

1. Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (hereafter 'the Regulations') the Borough Council is required to determine whether or not a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently, whether a SEA and/or HRA is required to be undertaken alongside the neighbourhood plan. They will produce a 'screening opinion' in this regard.
2. The draft Screening Opinion is then sent to Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency for comment.
3. If it is concluded that strategic environmental assessment is required, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Regulations.
4. Where it is determined that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement should be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.
5. Planning Practice Guidance confirms that an appropriate assessment, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), identifies whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on that site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information.
6. If the conclusion is that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives, must be undertaken. If the plan is determined to require an appropriate assessment then it will normally also require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
7. The following questions are designed to inform this decision-making process:

**1. Will the Neighbourhood Plan be allocating sites for the following uses?
Please state the estimated number of sites and units/sqm as appropriate.**

Housing (no. of sites & no. of units)	No
Employment (no. of sites & sqm)	No
Retail (no. of sites & sqm)	No
Community uses (no. of sites & sqm)	Only Local Green Spaces (17); no built development

2. Are any policies likely to affect a designated area (such as Conservation Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Flood Zone 2 or 3, Site of Special Scientific Importance or the Green Belt etc)? If yes, please explain how.

Yes – see Annexes 4 and 5 to screening request letter for full details.

The following is a list of policies set out in the current draft Submission version of the NDP:

Housing

Policy NB1 – Infill and Redevelopment to Provide New Housing

Policy NB2 – Extensions to Existing Dwellings

Policy NB3 – Replacement Dwellings

Policy NB4 – Housing Mix

Environment and Green Space

Policy NB5 – Green Belt

Policy NB6 – Landscape Character

Policy NB7 – Biodiversity

Policy NB8 – Noak Bridge Nature Reserve

Policy NB9 – Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting

Policy NB10 – Local Green Spaces

Policy NB11 – Important Views

Policy NB12 – Flooding and Drainage

Design and Conservation

Policy NB13 – Sustainable Development

Policy NB14 – Air Quality

Policy NB15 – Design Principles

Policy NB16 – Character Areas

Policy NB17 – Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (including the Conservation Area)

NB18 – Re-use of Rural Buildings

NB19 – Dark Night Skies

Local Economy, Education, Health and Other Local Services

Policy NB20 – Rural Economy

Policy NB21 – Noak Bridge Primary School

Policy NB22 – Health Facilities
Policy NB23 – Community Facilities
Policy NB24 – Funding New Facilities / Infrastructure

Transport and Roads

Policy NB25 – Highways, Safety and Sustainable Travel
Policy NB26 – Parking

3. Do you know of any environmental issues in the neighbourhood area?

Yes, see screening request letter for full details.

4. Do you think the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects on the neighbourhood area?

No, see screening request letter for full details.

5. Briefly describe the main objectives of the plan

The plan seeks to deliver the following vision for the Plan Area:

- 1) To preserve and enhance the special character and appearance of Noak Bridge, maintaining the openness of the Green Belt that surrounds the settlement whilst protecting important views, the natural environment and green spaces throughout the Plan Area.**

- 2) To ensure that new development will meet the needs of the local community in delivering sustainable low energy and low carbon, good quality appropriate housing and employment as well as improving existing community, health, education and retail facilities.**

- 3) To increase highway safety and deliver improved public transport services and improved parking provision.**

This plan is supported by the following 5 core groups of objectives:

1. Housing

- H₁) To ensure that future developments are of good quality design and appropriate to the needs of the Plan Area

- H₂) To identify the housing needs of the local community
- H₃) To promote specialist housing in order to support all members of the community
- H₄) To encourage developments that incorporate affordable housing which meets the needs of the local community

2. Environment and Green Space

- EGS₁) To conserve and enhance the rural landscape and character of the Plan Area and support appropriate planting that is representative of the local area
- EGS₂) To identify, designate and protect important views and local green spaces in the Plan Area
- EGS₃) To conserve and enhance the natural environment by reducing noise, water, air and traffic pollution
- EGS₄) To protect and enhance the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve
- EGS₅) To maintain the openness of the Green Belt that surrounds the settlement of Noak Bridge
- EGS₆) To conserve and enhance the natural environment/biodiversity of the Plan Area, e.g. wildlife habitats, ecological corridors, etc and ensure that all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the Plan Area
- EGS₇) To conserve and enhance the natural environment by managing flood risk and by assessing the environmental impact of any new development

3. Design and Conservation

- DC₁) To conserve the distinctive look and style of the village of Noak Bridge
- DC₂) To preserve and enhance the Noak Bridge conservation area and other designated and non-designated heritage assets in the Plan Area
- DC₃) To protect the unique design aspects of Noak Bridge Village
- DC₄) To enhance and preserve the peaceful and pleasant nature of the Plan Area as a place to live
- DC₅) To support the use of sustainable construction techniques and materials as well as promoting energy conservation and supply from renewable sources

4. Education, Health and Other Local Services

- EHS₁) To improve existing health facilities to meet the local community's needs
- EHS₂) To protect and improve the condition of the Plan Area's existing parks and open spaces

- EHS₃) To seek improvements to the local retail offer in the Plan Area
- EHS₄) To ensure that Primary schooling is kept local to meet the needs of the local community over the Plan period
- EHS₅) To ensure developments avoid any expansion pressure on the existing school and ensure that development provides any necessary additional educational facilities independent of the existing primary school
- EHS₆) To protect existing community facilities
- EHS₇) To identify and support new alternative community activities within the Plan Area
- EHS₈) To promote healthy and safe communities by policies measures that reduce crime and poverty rates

5. Transport and Roads

- TR₁) To improve highway safety, including ensuring that traffic volumes and speeds are managed on all existing and new roads in the Plan Area
- TR₂) To improve the safety of the local community on the roads in the Plan Area
- TR₃) To mitigate the impact of new development on local transport networks
- TR₄) To seek improvements to the provision of public transport
- TR₅) To seek improvements in the availability of vehicle parking spaces in the Plan Area

6. How certain are you that there will be no significant changes to the information given above? If significant changes are made you should inform the Planning Policy Team as soon as possible to find out whether the plan needs re-screening.

The NDP is currently being edited and consolidated in readiness for submission, following amendments in response to the Regulation 14 consultation stage. Other than reducing repetition and duplication, no further significant changes are envisaged.

7. Are you allocating land in addition to that set for the area in the Basildon Borough Local Plan Saved Policies 2007 and Basildon Borough Emerging Local Plan, if so, how much and why?

No

The above information is correct to the best of our knowledge. If there are any significant changes to the information given we will inform the Local Planning Authority.